



Helen Gorman Elementary | *Where Kindness Grows*

3230 Salmon Road, West Kelowna, BC V4T 1A7 | <https://hge.sd23.bc.ca> | 250-870-5116 | hge@sd23.bc.ca

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! We hope everyone enjoyed the sunshine and beauty of all that our home in the Okanagan has to offer, despite the smokey skies that blanketed us for a good portion of August! We look forward to hearing about the summer adventures your children have had. Our staff is excited to welcome our new and returning students to Helen Gorman Elementary.

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026:

The first day of school will be a half day with students in grades 1-5 *only* in session from **8:30-11:00am**. Please be sure to send your child to school with a snack and a water bottle.

Helen Gorman Elementary is nearly at capacity and as such we have less than a handful of spaces for new in-catchment students. If you have moved over the summer, please reach out to our office to share this information.

I am delighted to share that your children are able to begin their first day of school with their new teacher! An email will be sent to you from School Messenger on **Friday, September 4** in the late afternoon with the name of your child's teacher and map of the school. Please check your junk box in case it lands there.

We ask that students access their new class from the outside classroom doors. Any new students are welcome to meet Ms. Kirkey, our Learning Assistance Teacher, and Mrs. Hardman, our Librarian, at the front of the school where they can assist you in locating your child's classroom.

THE REST OF THE FIRST WEEK:

Wednesday, September 9 will be a full day of school from 8:30am-2:30pm for students in grades 1-5. Please be sure to send your child with lunch, snack and water bottle each day moving forward along with a pair of inside running shoes to be kept at school. Pizza Wednesdays and Hot Lunch begins later into the Fall. Kindergarten mini sessions begin Wednesday, September 9 too! All kindergarten families received scheduling information at the beginning of July.

HGE COUGAR PAW is the FAMILY NEWSLETTER:

As a school, we will communicate with families weekly on Fridays with upcoming information. Please find a link to the HGE Cougar Paw [HERE](#) for our first week of school with more information! This is a MUST read for key updates throughout the year.

FAMILY HANDBOOK:

Also, for those families new to HGE and those returning, you can locate valuable information about our school procedures and protocols in our [Family Handbook](#) including our Code of Conduct. As a reminder, please note the language regarding the use of cell phones and personal digital devices in schools, which include digital watches. It is critical that you take the time to review these restrictions that are relevant to the elementary setting. You can find a one pager of the updates related to Personal Digital Devices [HERE](#). We appreciate your support. Additionally, you'll also note we've added language around capturing both photographs and videos at special occasions including field studies, assemblies and year end celebrations.



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VOLUNTEERS AT HGE:

Throughout the course of the year, your child's class may request your presence in a special event, field study, or in class activity. We'd love to see you participate in these experiences; however, we do need to complete a Criminal Record Check (CRC) with us. You can learn more about how best to complete a CRC on page 12 of the Family Handbook. Be sure to add this to your September to-do list, so you and your child aren't disappointed that you can't attend. CRCs are valid for 4 years.

Please reach out to the office if you have any questions. We look forward to meeting new faces and seeing our returning families next week!

Warmly,

Jessica Anjos (she | her)

Principal of Helen Gorman Elementary

Phone | 250-870-5116

I regard it an honour to live, learn, and connect on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of the syilx Okanagan People.